



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC - 9 1998

OFFICE OF  
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Brown:

Thank you for your letter of November 24, 1998 to Administrator Browner urging the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to adopt equally stringent emissions standards for all hazardous waste combustors, including incinerators, cement kilns, and lightweight aggregate kilns.

As you may know, the Agency is developing emission standards for hazardous waste combustors under authority of section 112(d) of the Clean Air Act. Those standards are based on Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) and can be no less stringent than the level of control achieved by the best performing 12 percent of existing sources. More stringent controls can be promulgated if deemed to be cost-effective.

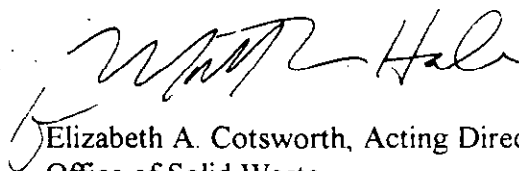
Given that the standards must be initially based on the emission levels achieved in practice by existing sources and that any more stringent standards must be cost-effective, the emission standards for the three types of combustors may differ. Nonetheless, I want to assure you that Administrator Browner shares your concern about the potential hazards posed by emissions of pollutants from hazardous waste combustors. We will use our authority under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) as necessary to supplement Clean Air Act authorities to ensure that hazardous air pollutants from these combustors are protective of human health and the environment.

To determine whether the MACT standards are protective, we are performing a risk assessment that considers multipathway exposures. By considering both direct and indirect (e.g., home gardener) exposure pathways, and by using separate RCRA authority as necessary, we will ensure that emissions from hazardous waste combustors are safe.

Faxback 14326

I hope this information will be helpful. If you would like further information, please have your staff contact David Hockey, Project Director, National Hazardous Waste Combustion Strategy, at (703) 308-8846.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth A. Cotsworth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name "Cotsworth" being more prominent.

Elizabeth A. Cotsworth, Acting Director  
Office of Solid Waste